

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 USIA-15 IO-14

DRC-01 /097 W

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R 060515Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9640

INFO CINCPAC

USDEL JEC PARIS

S E C R E T SAIGON 20456

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: SHIFT TO MORE MOBILE DEFENSE IN MR 4

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO DAO SAIGON DEC 4
REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE CAN THO 0863

1. AS INDICATED IN CAN THO 0839 AND 0826 IV CORPS IS
ENGAGED IN A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO REDUCE RELIANCE ON STATIC
DEFENSE (FIXED OUTPOSTS) AND MAKE A LARGER PROPORTION OF
TERRITORIAL FORCES (RF AND PF) AVAILABLE FOR MOBILE
EMPLOYMENT.

2. ON DECEMBER 3 IV CORPS COMMANDER MG NGUYEN VINH NGHI CITED
THE FOLLOWING REASONS FOR THIS SHIFT:

(A) IT WILL PUT GVN FORCES IN THE DELTA IN A BETTER
POSITION TO COPE WITH AN ENEMY OFFENSIVE SHOULD IT
MATERIALIZE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN LIGHT OF
DEPARTURE OF THE RANGERS FROM MR 4 BY DECEMBER 25.

(B) IT WILL MAKE ADDITIONAL FORCES AVAILABLE TO TAKE
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THE INITIATIVE AND KEEP THE ENEMY OFF BALANCE. NGHI SAYS SOME OF

THE EFFECTS OF THIS ARE ALREADY BEING SEEN IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE.

(C) VULNERABILITY OF UNITS IN SMALL ISOLATED OUTPOSTS WILL BE REDUCED.

3. THE PROGRAM IS NOT A HASTY ONE BUT IS TO BE CAREFULLY REVIEWED OVER THE NEXT MONTH OR SO. FIXED OUTPOSTS ARE TO BE LEFT AT POPULATED AREAS. OUTPOSTS WILL ALSO BE LEFT IN OR AT THE PERIPHERY OF VC MINI-BASES. THOSE WITHDRAWN WILL BE FROM UNPOPULATED OR VERY SPARSELY POPULATED AREAS WHICH WILL BE COVERED BY MOBILE OPERATIONS. IN SOME CASES, OUTPOSTS TO BE ABANDONED BY THE PF ARE TO BE TAKEN OVER BY THE PSDF. THERE IS TO BE LESS RELIANCE ON FIXED OUTPOSTS AND GREATER USE OF MOBILE FORCES TO BLOCK INFILTRATION ROUTES. IN OTHER WORDS, REDUCTION OF FIXED OUTPOSTS WILL BE SELECTIVE. IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE, FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT ABOUT 20 FIXED OUTPOSTS WILL BE DROPPED.

4. THIS SHIFT IN DELTA TACTICS IS DICTATED BY THE ENEMY IMPOSED EXIGENCIES OF THE SITUATION. THE CONTINUING INFILTRATION OF PERSONNEL AND AMMUNITION, AS WELL AS HARASSMENT AND ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS AND THE POPULATION, LEAVE THE GVN NO REAL ALTERNATIVE TO AN AGGRESSIVE DEFENSE. FROM THE MILITARY STANDPOINT, SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM WILL HINGE LARGELY ON HOW AGGRESSIVELY THESE NEWLY AVAILABLE MOBILE ASSETS WILL BE USED BY GVN COMMANDERS. SIGNED LEHMANN UNQUOTE
MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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30 JUN 2005

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